SHIPMAN-RECOMMENDED POLICY UPDATE- MAKE PERMANENT

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~~**SERIES 1000 C-19:**~~ **COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATIONS**

~~**This policy supersedes existing policy Series 1000 Volunteers, Student Interns, and Other Non-Employees.**~~
~~**This policy will be reevaluated by the Board of Education post-pandemic.**~~

VOLUNTEERS, STUDENT INTERNS, AND OTHER NON-EMPLOYEES

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of school volunteers at all levels of schooling. Volunteers can enhance collaboration between the school and community, broaden the school's educational environment and ultimately enrich students' school experience. The Board further acknowledges that it may, from time to time, be asked to provide learning experiences for student interns within the school environments. In recognition of the benefit of having volunteers, interns and other such non-employees providing services within the schools, the Board supports the involvement of these individuals in accordance with suitable regulations and safeguards to be developed by the Administration.

Volunteers, interns and other such non-employees working within the schools ("volunteers") must work under the supervision of Colchester Public Schools staff. Volunteers are held to the same standards of conduct as school staff and must observe all Board of Education policies, including applicable policies on the confidentiality of student information.

Volunteers may be required to submit to state and federal criminal record checks and a record check of the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may volunteer in the Colchester Public Schools.

All volunteers must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including **but not limited to** any health screening protocols. ~~Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, t~~The Board may limit or restrict volunteers based on the guidance of federal,

state, and local health authorities. **Administrators reserve the right to evaluate volunteer opportunities on a case by case basis.**

No employee of the Colchester Public Schools shall serve as a volunteer in any capacity, except as may be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee based on the specific situation.

Persons interested in volunteering their services should contact the school principal.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-4g

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-235

Connecticut General Statutes § 54-250 et seq.

"Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together," Connecticut State Department of Education (June 29, 2020), available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/CTReopeningSchools.pdf.

TEMPORARY POLICY ADOPTED: August 17, 2020
POLICY ADOPTED: November 9, 2021

COLCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Colchester, Connecticut

~~**SERIES 1000 C-19:**~~ **COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATIONS**

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING VOLUNTEERS, STUDENT INTERNS, AND OTHER NON-EMPLOYEES

Screening Procedure

The following procedure has been established for screening volunteers, interns and other non-employees ("volunteers") within the Colchester Public Schools. For the purpose of this procedure, volunteers are defined as those individuals who volunteer their time to assist in schools for the benefit of the student body with the express knowledge, consent and direction of a Colchester Public Schools employee. Student interns are defined as individuals currently enrolled in a post-secondary program for which an authorized internship is required or for which the student may be granted credit as part of an approved course of study. As with other volunteers, all student interns must be approved in advance by the building administrator or his/her designee and must be under the direction of a Board employee.

This procedure identifies those situations in which an individual may be required to submit to state and federal criminal record checks and a record check of the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") Child Abuse and Neglect Registry within 10 days of application and/or request to volunteer within the Colchester Public Schools. All results must be received by the Human Resources Office before the volunteer may commence his or her services. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may volunteer in the Colchester Public Schools.

Screening Procedure Definitions

The District has identified two classifications of volunteers: Group I and Group II.

Group I

Volunteers will be classified in Group I when they assist school staff members with school activities in the presence of a Colchester Public Schools employee. Background checks will not be required of Group I volunteers. Group I volunteers are those who assist school staff members with school activities such as those listed below:

a. assisting in a classroom, cafeteria, or library when a staff member is present; or
b. accompanying a class on a field trip during the school day with a staff member; or
c. helping in the school office during regular school hours; or
d. assisting in the cafeteria or library during regular school hours; or
e. assisting during extracurricular events, i.e., dances, fairs, open house, sporting events, etc.

Group II

Volunteers will be classified in Group II when they provide services to students when not in the direct presence of a Colchester Public Schools employee. Group II volunteers will be required to complete a consent form regarding the release of information concerning any prior or pending criminal offenses, and such volunteers will be required to submit to a record check of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Abuse and Neglect Registry. Group II volunteers are those who engage in activities such as those listed below:

a. accompanying a class on a field trip in which the plans include that students be divided into small groups supervised solely by the volunteer chaperone for any length of time; or
b. chaperoning an overnight field trip; or
c. working in direct contact with students without the direct presence of a Colchester Public Schools employee;
d. working as a student intern; or
e. coaching.

Upon receipt of DCF Abuse and Neglect Registry results indicating that the volunteer is involved in an abuse or neglect investigation or that the volunteer is listed as a perpetrator of abuse or neglect on the Registry, the Superintendent or his or her designee will notify the volunteer of the results of the Registry check and will provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond to the results of the Registry check. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may be approved to volunteer within the Colchester Public Schools.

When a criminal record check of a volunteer reveals a criminal conviction, whether disclosed or undisclosed on the volunteer's consent form, the Superintendent will make a case-by-case determination as to whether to allow the individual to volunteer in the Colchester Public Schools. Prior to any such decision by the Superintendent or designee, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the volunteer and shall provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the falsification or omission of any information on a volunteer consent form, including, but not limited to, information concerning criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, may be grounds for the Superintendent or designee to prohibit the individual from becoming a volunteer.

Prior Approval Required

All school volunteers (including student interns or other non-employee working in the schools) must be approved in advance by the building principal or other administrative designee. The school district, acting through the appropriate building administrator or his/her designee, reserves the right to discontinue or disallow the services of any volunteer at any time at the discretion of the administration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school district may limit or restrict volunteers based on the guidance of the federal, state, and local health authorities.

Sign-in Procedure

All volunteers must report to the school office upon arrival to sign in and must report to the office prior to departure to sign out. A sign-in/sign-out log will be maintained in each school office. Volunteers must indicate the purpose of their visit and include any other information (i.e. destination; provide proof of identification etc.) as may be required by the log. Additionally, volunteers will be provided with identification badges, which must be displayed during each visit. All volunteers must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including any health screening protocols.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-4g

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-235

Connecticut General Statutes § 54-250 et seq.

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